Spanning the Millennia

Is 2000 the last year of the 20th century, or the first year of the 21st century? In the spirit of a year of political campaigning, we have straddled the issue by selecting topics that span the millennia: the depiction of natural beauty, leadership, morality, Russia, problem of war, the future of the[r]. A[nd], not least, the wea[lth] and, in recognition that our understanding of where we are headed is dependent on knowing where we have been, we offer a guided tour of the role played by this area in America's founding. As usual, we have tried to cover a number of Middlebury's strengths, but this year we have taken greater advantage of Vermont in late summer with two outdoor courses. Finally, as a bonus offering, we have asked Frank Sesno '77, senior vice president and Washington Bureau Chief at CNN, to join us to provide some insights into the presidential and congressional campaigns as they head into the final stretch.

"An exhilarating time, a rejuvenating experience."

Phyllis Cole Deming '51

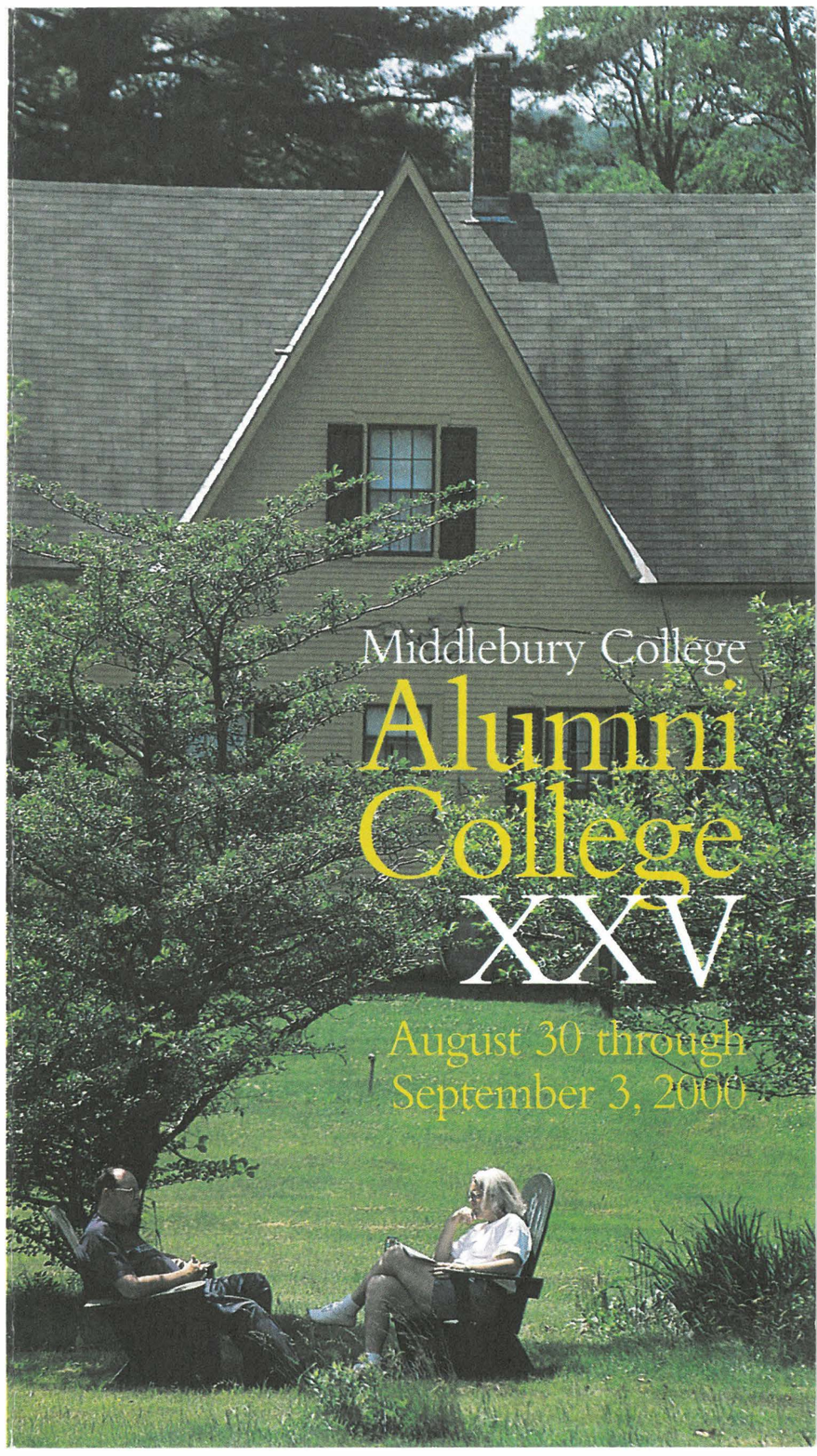
[F]or Need [m]ation, including childcare options? Contact Nellie Mori[son] lumni and parent programs office at (802) 443-5011 or mori[s]on@middlebury.e[d]u.

After-dinner activities will include an evening with Frank Sesno '77 and Eric Davis, Secretary of the College and Professor of Political Science, to discuss the upcoming presidential and congressional campaigns; a "Piano Bar Songfest" with Dick Forman, back by popular demand; and a performance by François Clemmons, Twilight Artist-in-Residence (named for 1823 Middlebury graduate Alexander Twilight, the first African-American to receive a college degree). François is a singer and a musician, the founder and leader of the Harlem Spiritual Ensemble, creator and performer for 25 years of the role of the friendly police officer on the Emmy and Peabody Award-winning television program, "Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood."

NEW IN FALL 2000

ALUMNI COLLEGE ON-LINE

Professor Eric Davis (Political Science) will offer an on-line Alumni College course on the "Presidential and Congressional Elections of 2000" that will begin in late September and run through Election Day in November. This course will include readings and multi-media materials made available on the Web and updated weekly, an on-line discussion forum on the elections, and weekly live "chats" among course participants. To participate in the course, you will need an Internet connection of 28.8 kbps or faster, and a computer with Web browser that supports audio and video through RealPlayer or a similar plug-in. More information about this course will be made available in late summer. Questions about it may be sent to ericd@middlebury.edu.



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

1. Exploring and Depicting the Vermont Landscape *Sabra Field '57, Artist*
Vermont's landscape attracts attention for its beauty, history, and its response to changes in its use. The renowned print-maker, Sabra Field, has been looking at the Champlain Valley as raw material for her own work ever since she was a student at Middlebury. Share this experience with Sabra as you create your own artwork. You will draw on location in farm country, create collages from your drawings, and visit Sabra's studio to observe the print-making process. (Limited to 18 students)

2. Weather and Its Violent Sides *Daniel Bedford, Assistant Professor of Geography*
Violent weather, such as blizzards, hurricanes, or tornadoes is a fascinating and dangerous feature of the earth's atmosphere. We will investigate what causes these events by beginning with an understanding of weather processes more generally. We will start with every day weather phenomena, such as cloud formation and rainfall, and then consider the causes of extreme weather events. We will explore recent developments in forecasting techniques, including Doppler radar, numerical weather prediction, and very short-term forecasting, called "nowcasting."

3. Of Character and Kings *Larry Yarbrough, Professor of Religion*
Character has become a major issue in contemporary American politics. But concern with the character of leaders is nothing new. One of the oldest studies of character and leadership is the 3000-year-old story of Saul and David. Reading this story in the context of the current political season is instructive in some very unexpected ways. Political intrigue, murder, suicide, spies, pandering, adultery, and religion—it's all there. We will read this story of Saul and David in 1 Samuel 8-1 Kings 2 to learn what it says about character, morality, and leadership in the context of today's issues.

4. War: Its Causes and Consequences
Russell J. Leng '60, James Jermain Professor of Political Economy
As we begin the 21st century, the problem of war, civil as well as international, is still with us. We will discuss the causes of war, what it is like to experience war, and war's future. Our examination will include studies by social scientists, the memoirs of participants, and the works of novelists, poets, and filmmakers. Particular attention will be paid to World Wars I and II, and the American war in Vietnam.

5. Russia: Change and Continuity *Sergei Davydov, Professor of Russian*
Ronald Liebowitz, College Provost and Professor of Geography
Tatiana Smorodinskaya, Assistant Professor of Russian
Where is Russia headed? Russia's past, present, and future will be examined from three perspectives: ethno-geographic, historical, and cultural. Major turning points in Russia's history will be considered from each of these perspectives to provide the background for discussions of Russia's current political, cultural, and identity crises. There will be a Russian language table at meals, as well as a fun short course in tourists' Russian, for those who are interested.

6. Cycling Through Revolutionary Vermont
William B. Hart, Assistant Professor of History
Take a three-day bicycle tour through the Revolutionary-era Champlain Valley. We will bike 20-25 miles per day along some of Vermont's most scenic back-country roads, and visit historic sites including Mt. Independence, Fort Ticonderoga, Crown Point, Chimney Point, historic cemeteries, the Ann Story cabin, and more. We also will read and discuss literature on life and war in Revolutionary Vermont. Top-of-the-line bicycles and cozy country lodging with fine dining will be provided.

FACULTY

Daniel Bedford is a physical geographer with particular interest in thunder, lightning, and extreme weather in general, especially since he took up mountaineering a few years ago. Dan has a BA from Oxford, and an MA and Ph.D. from the University of Colorado. He joined the Middlebury faculty in 1997.

Sergei Davydov joined the Middlebury faculty in 1976. He was lured away by another institution three years later, but we persuaded him to return home in 1988. He holds a Ph.D. from Yale and is the author of numerous works on Pushkin, Dostoevsky, and Nabokov. He is currently working on a book on Pushkin's political and religious thought. **Ronald Liebowitz** is the Executive Vice President and Provost of Middlebury College, as well as professor of geography. Ron, as he is universally known, joined the Middlebury faculty in 1984. His research has focused on Russia, with particular emphasis on nationalities and demography. Ron is a veteran of Alumni College who has received rave reviews on each previous appearance.
Tatiana Smorodinskaya, holds an MA from Moscow State University and a Ph.D. from Ohio State. Before coming to Middlebury in 1998, she taught at a number of European and American institutions. At Middlebury she quickly established a reputation as a dynamic teacher with a wonderful sense of humor. She is the author of several texts designed for intensive language study, as well as articles on Russian literature and culture.

Sabra Field, Middlebury '57, earned an MAT from Wesleyan and taught high school art for ten years before returning to Vermont and founding Tontine Press in 1959. Her creative and strikingly beautiful depictions of the Vermont landscape have been hailed by critics and ordinary lovers of art alike. She has collected awards, including an honorary degree from Middlebury, recognition by Governor Kunin as an Extraordinary Vermonter, and the Vermont Council of Arts Award for Excellence, with the regularity that one would like to collect her prints.

William Hart joined the Middlebury faculty in 1993. He holds a Ph.D. from Brown, and has been the recipient of prestigious fellowships and post-doctoral awards from the Ford Foundation, Princeton, and Dartmouth. Bill teaches a variety of courses on American history, including the Revolutionary period. And, yes, he does enjoy bicycling.

Russell Leng, Middlebury, '60, has taught international politics at Middlebury since 1966. His research on international conflict has produced numerous scholarly articles and two books, the most recent of which, *Bargaining and Learning in Recurring Crises: The Soviet-American, Egyptian-Israeli, and Indo-Pakistani Rivalries*, was published this spring. Russ has taught at Alumni College on three previous occasions, and has been Alumni College Academic Director since 1995.

Larry Yarbrough has been at Middlebury since 1983. His teaching and research are in the areas of Biblical Studies and early Christianity. As chair of the religion department he has organized the biennial Scott Symposium, which honors former chaplain Charles Scott. Larry's course topic grew out of discussions with students following a class on Saul and David, which fell on election day during the last presidential campaign. Larry holds graduate degrees from Cambridge, Emory, and Yale universities.

REGISTRATION FORM

Alumni College XXV / August 30 to September 3, 2000
Please reserve a place for me.

Name: _____

Class: _____

and a place for my spouse/guest: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

My first choice is #_____ My second choice is #_____

Spouse/guest first choice is # _____ Spouse/guest second choice is # _____

Special housing needs? _____

_____

Fee
$450-all-inclusive cost per person (tuition, books, lodging, meals, and evening entertainment at Bread Loaf).
There will be an additional fee of $230 for the cycling course (#6).

Method of payment
__ Check payable to Middlebury College enclosed,
__ Visa
__ Mastercard

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Cardholder's name: _____

Cardholder's signature: _____

Please send form with payment to:
Alumni and Parent Programs Office
Meeker House
Middlebury College
Middlebury College VT 05753